

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /056 W

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R 301538Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6833

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 981

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: USG/GOC TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

1. FORMAL TALKS WITH GOC BEGAN MORNING OF JANUARY 27 AND BY END OF AFTERNOON SESSION IT WAS CLEAR GOC WAS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FOR TWO REASONS: A) THE GOC HAD NOT MADE A DECISION INTERNALLY TO NEGOTIATE ON A MULTIFIBER BASIS; AND B) EVEN IF SUCH A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, GOC SIMPLY NOT PREPARED IN TERMS OF DATA, PROJECTIONS, ETC. TO NEGOTIATE IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD BEST SERVE ITS LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OR MAKE FOR MEANINGFUL, REALISTIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG.

2. THE ABOVE IMPRESSIONS WERE STRONGLY REINFORCED IN PRIVATE MEETING WHICH AMBASSADOR AND JURICHAD WITH GOC MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT RAMIREZ OCAMPO AND HEAD DELEGATE DELANCO. AS A RESULT, DURING THIS PRIVATE MEETING, IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS AT END MARCH, THE INTERIM TIME TO BE USED BY GOC FOR NECESSARY POLITICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATION. THE MARCH SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE, ALL FIBER BILATERAL.

3. IN SAME PRIVATE MEETING, MINISTER RAMIREZ ADVISED

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BY US SIDE OF ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION USG HAD,

IF MARCH TALKS DID NOT RESULT IN SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT  
ON COMPREHENSIVE, I.E. ARTICLE 3 ACTION.

4. DURING BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL TALKS WITH GOC, IT WAS VERY CLEAR GOC HAD LITTLE, IF ANY, IDEA OF ITS TEXTILE TRADE LEVELS WITH US. LIKEWISE, GOC WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH BASIC STRUCTURE OF USG BILATERALS NEGOTIATED SINCE MFA EFFECTED. MOST IMPORTANTLY, GOC OBVIOUSLY LABORING UNDER SOME BASIC MISCONCEPTIONS AFTER MFA AND ITS "LEGISLATIVE" HISTORY. FOR EXAMPLE, GOC INVITED USG TAKE ARTICLE 3 ACTION BECAUSE GOC QUOTE VIEWED ARTICLE 3 AS POSITIVE, LIBERAL STEP UNQUOTE. GOC'S OWN INDUSTRY REPS VISIBLY SHUDDERED WHEN HEAD DELEGATE GALEANO MADE THAT STATEMENT.

5. LIKEWISE, IN FIRST DAY'S SESSION, GOC TRIED MAINTAIN POSITION THAT THERE WERE REALLY ONLY TWO CHOICES: A BILATERAL AGREEMENT OR NO AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE GOC NOW REALIZES THAT ITS CHOICES UNDER MFA ARE A BILATERALLY NEGOTIATED COMPREHENSIVE OR A PROCESS LEADING TO IMPOSED RESTRAINTS.

6. HENCE, MINISTER RAMIREZ PERSONALLY ASKED US SIDE FOR A PRIVATE MEMORANDUM ON OUR PERCEPTION OF GOC TEXTILE TRADE WITH USG, WHAT USG HAD IN MIND IN TERMS OF COMPREHENSIVE BILATERAL AND EXPLANATION OF IMPLICATIONS OF THE ALTERNATIVE (E.G. ARTICLE 3). US SIDE HAS BEGUN PREPARATION OF SUCH MEMORANDUM.

4. UNDER ALL THE ABOVE CONDITIONS, US SIDE FELT IT BEST NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE ARTICLE 3 ACTION NOW. WHEN THE GOC HAS DONE ITS HOMEWORK AND PARTICULARLY WHEN IT REALIZES (THROUGH US PAPER, PARA 6 AND COLOMBIAN INDUSTRY PRESSURE) THAT ARTICLE 3 IS HARDLY A STEP FORWARD, WE BELIEVE GOC WILL COME TO TABLE IN MARCH PREPARED TO STRIKE A DEAL. GOC IS SURELY AWARE IF IT DOES NOT, USG WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY AND PERMITTED STEPS UNDER THE MFA TO PROTECT ITS MFA RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

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8. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT CONTINUED GOC MINISTERIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE MARCH TALKS WILL BE ESSENTIAL. THAT BEING THE CASE, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT MINISTER RAMIREZ CAN BE AWAY FROM BOGOTA FOR SUCH A LONG PERIOD AND, HENCE, WE BELIEVE US DEL SHOULD BE PREPARED RETURN TO BOGOTA.

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